President's Column

Happy New Year to the members of the New Mexico Library Association. It is my wish that 1974 will be another eventful year for New Mexico Libraries. The momentum is for progress and certainly progress has been the theme of New Mexico Librarians in recent years.

The energy crisis should prove to be a boom for libraries as more people will be staying home with a book. Now is certainly the time for all Librarians to tout the horncs for libraries and bore into the people that libraries can make their lives more enjoyable, informative and relaxing with the services available at your library.

The New Mexico Library Association Convention is set for March 28th thru the 30th at the Four Seasons in Albuquerque. The Convention program looks both informative and stimulating and now is the time to mark your calendar for attending those days in Albuquerque. Kathy Puffer, Program Chairman, and Cecilia Casaus, Convention Chairman, have worked hard on the program, but its success depends on the involvement and participation of the members.

By now you have received your NMLA membership renewal forms and now is a good time to get your checks off to NMLA's Treasurer, Marilyn Fletcher.

Your President and Mrs. June Harwell, Chairman of the Public Library Division, have been working on the possibilities of Municipal Librarians becoming a subdivision of the New Mexico Municipal League. There will be a session at the convention on the merits of League Membership.

June Harwell, City Librarian at Alamogordo Public Library is featured in the December 1973 issue of American Libraries. Page 661 in regards to her oral history publications. Congratulations June!

A Las Cruces author, Jennie George Curry, has written a very fascinating book which is a collection of Children's Stories, entitled 'Tumbleweed Tales,' published by the Naylor Company, and which sells for $6.95. It is highly recommended.

Information has gone out on the NMLA $1,000 Scholarship and if you know a good candidate for graduate library school, please encourage him or her to apply. Dr. James Dyke is Chairman of the Scholarship and Recruitment Committee.

Future conventions are planned for 1975 in Socorro at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and in 1976 at the Hilton Inn in Santa Fe.

Best wishes for 1974 and I hope that everyone can attend Albuquerque March 28th thru 30th.

—Don Dresp

NMLA Annual Conference

The New Mexico Library Association will host the 1974 NMLA Annual Conference at the Four Seasons Motor Inn in Albuquerque from March 28th through the 30th. The theme of the conference will be “Library Service in New Mexico: A Needs Assessment.” Topics at various meetings will cover such subjects as Veterinary Medicine; Hospital and Institutional Libraries; Serving the Visually Handicapped; Serving Senior Citizens, Rural Libraries as well as Intellectual Freedom Workshop. Plan now to attend.

College Library Bond Issue Books—An Unavailable Resource?

When New Mexico voters passed the Higher Educational Institutions Library Bond Issue in November, 1972, they were voicing their concern about the inadequate resources available at libraries in the public colleges in our state. They authorized the expenditure of ten million dollars over a five year period for books and other materials, so that New Mexico college libraries could meet institutional needs and minimum national standards. This directed bond program is specifically restricted to the purchase of books and materials, and has resulted in the doubling of book budgets for New Mexico college libraries.

At the time the bond issue was passed, it was assumed that additional funds would be provided to take care of the additional staff and supplies necessary to purchase, catalog and process the increased number of books. Some funds were provided in Fiscal Year 1973-74, but unfortunately this was far below what the libraries needed. In Fiscal Year 1974-75, the prospects are again dim. Library staff increases recommended by the Board of Educational Finance are wholly inadequate to do the job, and the administrators at several colleges already seem to have committed themselves not to lobby for appropriations over and above the Board of Educational Finance recommendations.

Faced with inadequate funding for staff to process the bond books, the college librarians will be faced with several alternatives. They can try to spend their entire bond allotment each year and place the resulting backlog in storage until it can be cataloged. They can transfer staff to technical services from other areas of the library, but this will result in a lower level of service to their patrons. They can decide to purchase only what they can process and defer the expenditure of the remaining money until later, when inflation will have substantially decreased its purchasing power. They can handle some of the increased volume through more efficient methods of technical processing, cooperative use of cataloging data bases and other technological improvements. However, increased efficiency and new technology by themselves can make only a small dent in the backlog.

Who are the losers in this situation? The students and faculty at the various colleges obviously have the most to lose since the research materials they need will continue to be unavailable to them until they are processed.

Other citizens of New Mexico will lose because they also will not have access to the bond issue materials. Other librarians will lose by not having access to the increased collections in the college libraries. The Coordinated Library Systems will lose because its data base will be incomplete. Bond issue books are a state-wide resource is being misused as long as there are large numbers of books sitting in a warehouse. New Mexico librarians in all types of libraries should continue to bring this situation to the attention of their patrons, contact their legislators and the Bureau of Educational Finance. If more money can be appropriated for increased college library staff, perhaps the college libraries can correct the backlog situation before it gets out of hand.

—Joe Sabatini

Marion Dorroh Scholarship

Applications are being accepted for the Marion Dorroh Memorial Scholarship Awarded jointly by the New Mexico and Greater Albuquerque Library Associations. The $1000 grant is for study in a New Mexico or Greater Albuquerque Library School. To qualify, the applicant must (1) be a graduate of a New Mexico college or university or a resident of New Mexico and a graduate of another recognized college or university; and (2) must be at least tentatively accepted by an accredited Library School as a full-time student. A formal application complete in all respects must be on file with the NMLA Scholarship Committee by February 15, 1974. For information apply to Dr. James Dyke, Chairman, NMLA Scholarship Committee, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88003.
Eugene Manlove Rhodes Poster

The New Mexico Library Association General Publicity & National Library Week Committee will be offering for sale a poster print featuring Eugene Manlove Rhodes as the first of an NMLA Author series. Order blanks for the poster will be mailed to New Mexico libraries during February. Copies of the poster will become available March 15 and may be ordered for $2.00. All inquiries should be sent to Mrs. Cheryl Bandy, Box 4298, Las Cruces 88003.

The poster is a pen and ink drawing of a photograph showing Rhodes astride his horse. The poster will measure 18X24 inches and will be suitable for framing. Money collected from the sale of the poster will go toward the Marion Dorroh Scholarship fund.

Eugene Manlove Rhodes spent his youth manhood and his declining years in New Mexico. And from his life in the West, he captured in prose and poetry Western landscapes and Western occupations.

Gene Rhodes died forty years ago, but his descriptions of the Southwest have spanned generations. His cowboy stories are native to New Mexico.

To typify Gene Rhodes as a cowboy, Lawrence Porter drew a man upon a horse. His talent as a Western artist is exemplified in the sketch. Porter is a native of the Southwest and has been a full time professional artist since 1964. At present he is concentrating in the areas of the cowboy scene and would be interested in doing so. Please contact G. Martin Russ, 1520 University Blvd., N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102. Annual conferences will be held at Albuquerque in 1974; at Socorro in 1975; at Santa Fe in 1976 and at El Paso in 1977.

Conference Sites Set For NMLA

The location for annual conferences of the New Mexico Library Association have been determined through 1977. Beyond that, locations are yet to be determined. The Conference Site Chairman would like to know if there are communities in New Mexico which has not hosted the annual conference and would be interested in doing so. Please contact G. Martin Russ, 1520 University Blvd., N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102.

Almost 200 Attend Area Workshop

A total attendance of 199 was recorded for the five presentations of the New Mexican Library Association Fall Area workshops. Workshop presentations featured the use of community profiles as a tool in a community needs assessment. Profiles were prepared for 88 cities, towns and rural communities, using social and economical data from the 1970 U.S. Census. These data were analyzed in relation to library profiles to locate potential areas for expanded library programs. Regional meetings were held in Gallup, Las Vegas, Las Cruces, Roswell and Albuquerque. Presentations were made by Estee Lee Albright, Barbara Allen, Bill Scholz and Jane Gillette of the State Library; Joe Sabatini of the Albuquerque Public Library, and Tony Elias and Larry Adcock of UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

Intellectual Freedom Workshop

The NMLA Legislation and Intellectual Freedom Committee will present a workshop entitled “What to do when the Censor Comes.” The workshop will be held during the 1974 NMLA Conference on March 30th, 1974. Among the topics to be presented will be procedures for handling complaints, the development of a book selection policy and a profile of the censors— their motives and tactics. The Workshop Committee will hold a planning session in January and would like to invite anyone interested in being on the workshop panel to attend and participate. Please contact Joe Sabatini for further details at 766-7720 or at the Albuquerque Public Library.

NMLA Interest Checklist

Please check those committees in which you are interested by 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice. Mail to:

Kathleen M. Puffer
Patients’ Librarian
V.A. Hospital
Albuquerque 87108

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Scholarship and Recruitment
Legislation and Intellectual Freedom
Historical Materials
General Publicity & National Library Week
N.M.L.A. Publications
Documents (deals with state documents in particular)
Constitution and By-Laws
Membership
Convention Site
Library Development

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Task Force To Broaden Library Services

Your Name: ____________________________
Your Address: ____________________________

Members Wanted

NMLA Membership forms will soon be mailed to all current members. The Membership Committee needs the assistance of the membership not only in renewing membership, but also to encourage non-members to join. If you know of any potential members, please send their name and address to: Denis Roark, Membership Chairman, Eastern New Mexico University, P.O. Box 6761, Roswell 88201.
Library-Media Centers Survey

Allene Klewen is conducting a survey of public elementary school library-media centers. Her purpose is to assess the current status of library-media centers in the public elementary school of the State. Approximately 25 percent (100) of the public elementary schools in New Mexico will be surveyed. All of the public elementary schools have been stratified by size of enrollment and a proportional representation for each category was determined. Questionnaires were mailed to the 100 randomly selected schools on January 21st and returns have been requested by February 4th. In order to obtain a good picture of the current status, it will be necessary for Mrs. Klewen to obtain a good return. If you receive a questionnaire she will appreciate a prompt return.

Branigan Memorial Library

The renovation at Branigan Library which started June 25th, 1973 terminated on December 1st. For five months the staff moved books from one end of the building to another depending on where the new roof was being added. The Library was completed at a cost of $139,784 in Revenue Sharing Funds. The new features at Branigan—which never closed one hour during the renovating process—are an entire new roof; central heating and air conditioning; a public typing room; new restrooms; new lighting; carpeting and an entrance to the New Mexico Room. Between 1200 and 1800 people attended the Open House on January 8th.

Librarians To Join League

Don Dresp and June Harwell, Chairman of the Public Libraries Division, met in November with Frank Copplet, Executive Director of the New Mexico Municipal League to discuss the formation of a subdivision of the League for public librarians. Formation of the subdivision will be a major item of business at the Public Libraries Division meeting at the Albuquerque Conference. An organizational meeting will be held shortly thereafter.

Church, Synagogue Library Conference

The second New Mexico Church and Synagogue Library Conference will be held in Albuquerque on March 16, 1974 under the sponsorship of the University of New Mexico General Library, the national Church and Synagogue Library Association, and the Albuquerque Council of Churches. The workshop will be held at the Hoffman Library, near the corner of Menaul and Wyoming Streets, which has a modern, well-organized library. Workshop leaders and speakers will include representatives from the Roman Catholic Church, Congregation D’Nai Israel, the Lutheran Church, United Presbyterian Church, Southern Baptist Convention, Methodist Church, and the Church of Christ. Featured speaker at the luncheon will be Father Angelico Chavez of the University of Albuquerque.

SWLA Membership Application

Please remit $5.00 for membership dues to Mrs. Marion Mitchell, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 36206, Airline Station, Dallas, Texas 75237. Checks should be made out to the Southwestern Library Association.